

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: REACTION TO ASHER YADLIN'S ALLEGATIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 1115

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FOLLOWING NEWS OF ASHER YADLIN'S CONFESSION ON FEBRUARY 14 AND HIS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING LABOR PARTY LEADERS, THE KNESSET FLOOR WAS THE SCENE OF ANGRY CHARGES AND DENIALS. LIKUD MK'S TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE APPEARANCE ON THE SPEAKER'S ROSTRUM OF EDUCATION MINISTER AHARON YADLIN, ONE OF THOSE IMPLICATED BY HIS COUSIN ASHER YADLIN, TO DEMAND HIS RESIGNATION AND TO DIRECT A BARRAGE OF SCORN AND INVECTIVE AT THE MINISTER AND THE LABOR PARTY. ACCORDING TO TODAY'S MAARIV AHARON YADLIN HAS TOLD A NUMBER OF KNESSET MEMBERS THAT HE IS CONSIDERING THE RELINQUISHMENT OF HIS PORTFOLIO UNTIL ALL QUESTIONS RAISED AT HIS COUSIN'S TRIAL ARE CLARIFIED. SINCE UNDER ISRAEL'S BASIC LAW A MINISTER IN A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT CANNOT RESIGN, AHARON YADLIN WOULD PROBABLY SUSPEND HIS MINISTERIAL DUTIES (IF HE SO DECIDES) RATHER THAN QUIT HIS POST. A SIMILAR DEMAND FOR RETURNING HIS PORTFOLIO TO THE PRIME MINISTER WAS DIRECTED AT
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FINANCE MINISTER RABINOWITZ, ALSO IMPLICATED BY ASHER YADLIN.

2. WHILE ALL THOSE NAMED IN ASHER YADLIN'S TESTIMONY STOUTLY DENIED ANY WRONG DOING, ATTORNEY GENERAL AHARON BARACH REPORTEDLY IS CONSIDERING LAUNCHING A FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGATIONS. ADDRESSING

LABOR PARTY MEMBERS IN JERUSALEM AND BEERSHEBA YESTERDAY
PRIME MINISTER RABIN PLEDGED TO GIVE THE POLICE A FREE
HAND TO INVESTIGATE ASHER YADLIN'S ACCUSATIONS. HE
STATED "THIS GOVERNMENT HAS FOLLOWED A POLICY THAT ALL
ARE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW. NO ONE IS PREFERRED, NO ONE
IS PROTECTED AND IF A COMPLAINT IS MADE AGAINST SOMEONE--
THERE WILL BE AN INVESTIGATION... THE GOVERNMENT DID
NOT COVER UP, DOES NOT COVER UP AND DOES NOT OBSCURE
FACTS." LAST NIGHT RABIN SUMMONED RABINOWITZ, AHARON
YADLIN, PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL MEIR ZARMI AND DAVID
CALDERON, ALL NAMED IN ASHER YADLIN'S TESTIMONY, TO A
MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ALLEGATIONS. END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. COMMENT: MUCH OF TODAY'S PRESS IS DEVOTED TO THE
YADLIN CONFESSION (ALONG WITH THE SECRETARY'S VISIT).
HOWEVER, THERE IS AS YET SCANT ANALYSIS OF ITS
RAMIFICATIONS. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT RABIN'S CLOSE
ASSOCIATION WITH THOSE IMPLICATED BY ASHER YADLIN
WILL DO HIM NO GOOD IN HIS RACE WITH PERES (REFTEL)
ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HE LIKE PERES HAD
VIRTUALLY NO INVOLVEMENT IN PARTY FINANCES DURING
THE PERIOD IN QUESTION (LATE 60'S THROUGH THE 1973
ELECTION CAMPAIGN). WHILE RABIN'S QUICK REACTION IN
PLEDGING AN INVESTIGATION SHOULD HELP IN DISTANCING
HIMSELF FROM THE SCANDAL, MOST OBSERVERS CONCLUDE THAT
HE HAS BEEN HURT. HOW BADLY, REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
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